Starvation deaths In Orissa

254. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent telecast of the news reel depicting supression of starvation deaths in Orissa has been taken note of; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to bring out the truth for immediate corrective measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No such matter has specifically come to notice.

(b) No "starvation death" has been reported by the Government of Orissa so far. As and when specific information in respect of ""starvation death" or major deficiency in the functioning of the Public Distribution System is received, a Team of Officers is deputed to look into the same at the earliest.

Starvation deaths in States

†255. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item regarding starvation deaths in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any action was taken by Government to confirm these news-items; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Reports of starvation deaths have appeared in section of the Press.

(b) and (c) Government have constituted a Task Force to check irregularities and for general inspection and monitoring of implementation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.